

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 /103 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5832

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 828

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG FR CA

SUBJ FRENCH INVITATION TO PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING

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1. IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MARCH 5, OPPOSITION LEADER STANFIELD PRESSED ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD ON LACK OF INVITATION BY FRANCE TO CANADA TO PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING. MACDONALD MADE FOLLOWING RESPONSE CLEARLY SETTING FORTH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT VIEW ON THIS MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE. FOR SOME TIME CANADA HAS FAVOURED IN GENERAL TERMS A MEETING BETWEEN BOTH THE PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND HAS SOUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN PARIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE POSITION THAT WAS TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY AND INDEED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE, WAS THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN ALL THREE CATEGORIES. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING BUT I THINK THAT WITH CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF SUCH A SCALE THAT WOULD HAVE PERHAPS HINDERED THE MAKING OF EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING. WE AGREED ON THAT BASIS NOT TO PARTICIPATE. END QUOTE.

2. STANFIELD THEN ASKED MACDONALD HOW CANADA WOULD PUT ITS POSITION BEFORE THIS "CONFERENCE" WHICH "MAY LAY DOWN SOME VERY IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE RELATING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE CONCEPT AT LEAST OF NEGOTIATED PRICES BETWEEN THE PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES-A NEGOTIATED WORLD PRICE - AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON A FLOOR PRICE OR EVEN THE RANGE OF LEVEL OF THAT FLOOR PRICE." MINISTER MACDONALD, IN ANSWER, REMINDED THE QUESTIONER THAT THIS WAS ONLY A PREPARATORY MEETING TO A FULL CONFERENCE AND "THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WILL BE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THESE DISCUSSIONS AND WITH THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, AND OF COURSE WE WILL BE MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN WITH REGARD TO THE VARIOUS ITEMS WHICH THE HON. GENTLEMAN HAS MENTIONED. THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY MEETING WILL TAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE IN THE AGENCY ON MARCH 6 AND 7, THAT IS TO SAY THIS WEEK. AT THAT TIME WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF THE FLOOR PRICE, AMONG OTHERS. WE HAVE NOT TAKEN A FINAL POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE VARIOUS COMMENTS PUT FORWARD UNTIL THE PROPOSITIONS ARE BETTER DEFINED, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE FLOOR PRICE COULD BE OF SIGNIFICANCE TO CANADA WITH THE RELATIVELY HIGH COST PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN THE FUTURE.

AND ON THAT BASIS WE WILL BE PURSUING THE FLOOR PRICE DISCUSSION, BEARING IN MIND OUR INTEREST OVER THE LONG RUN IN MAINTAINING PROTECTION OF OUR OWN INDUSTRY."

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COMMONS EXCHANGE, MACDONALD AVOWED THAT CANADA WILL IN NO REPEAT NO SENSE BE BOUND BY THE RESULTS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND WILL RESERVE FULL RIGHTS TO EXPRESS CANADIAN VIEWS AT THE FULL CONFERENCE WHEN IT IS HELD. IN THIS CONNECTON, HE ADDED THAT CANADA HAS "THE ASSURANCES OF ALL PARTIES THAT IT WILL BE A FULL CONFERENCE AND CANADA WILL BE A FULL PARTICIPANT."

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